

aisle to wish him every success as well as fair winds and following seas always.

TRIBUTE TO MARCO ANTONIO
MUNIZ, "THE MOST BELOVED
VOICE OF AMERICA"

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Marco Antonio Muñoz, one of the most loved and cherished singers among Hispanics in all of the Americas. This weekend Marco Antonio Muñoz will be given two special performances at Hostos Community College in my congressional district of the South Bronx.

Marco Antonio Muñoz was born in 1933 in Guadalajara, Mexico. His passion for music started at a very early age, and even as a child he would take every opportunity to sing at events in Guadalajara.

As a young man, Marco Antonio joined the musical group "Veracruz" and later on became a member of "Los Tres Ases," a trio which brought him international fame. "Los Tres Ases" held performances in all of Latin America and recorded eight LPs, copies of which are still available in music stores. Among the many hits the group achieved include: "Mi último fracaso" ("My last failure"), "100 Mujeres" ("100 Women"), "Que Seas Feliz" ("I Wish You Happiness"), and "El Reloj" ("The Clock").

While still at the summit of success, Marco Antonio decided to leave the trio and seek a new challenge as a soloist. He struggled in the beginning, but soon won the admiration of many in Mexico and the rest of the Americas.

Although his repertoire ranges from traditional Mariachi music to romantic ballads, Marco Antonio Muñoz is internationally acclaimed as one of the greatest singers of romantic music. He is commonly called "The Most Beloved Voice of America," "The Romantic Singer of America," "The Luxury of Mexico," and "The Uncontainable."

His music has won the hearts of many Puerto Ricans. Marco Antonio has performed in Puerto Rico for the past 34 Christmas holiday seasons without a break. His simplicity of character and undeniable passion in his singing have gained him recognition as one of the most talented singers of the Americas.

I have a collection of 50 LPs by Marco Antonio Muñoz. His exceptional career has featured numerous hits and record sales. And among his recordings is a collection of albums dedicated to Puerto Rican composers Rafael Hernández, Sylvia Rexach, and Pedro Flores. I am proud to say that my first son, José Marco, was named after him.

The Hispanic community of the South Bronx is honored to receive this giant of Latin American music.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Marco Antonio Muñoz, the most beloved singer of the Americas, for giving to the Hispanic community the gift of beautiful music.

HONORING THE KITTRELL
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Kittrell Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

ROLLING MEADOWS CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize some outstanding business leaders in my district who have risen to the top in their respective fields. Tonight they will be recognized by the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce for their efforts and achievements. I would like to take a moment to recognize each for their accomplishments in the hopes that their achievements will inspire others to follow their lead.

Kristine M. Stabler, the vice president and head of sales for the Arlington International Racecourse, has been named the Business Leader of the Year. She has worked in the business community at Arlington International Racecourse for 14 years and was given the added responsibility to serve as a liaison between the racetrack and the business community. The Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce adds that "she is also the coordinator of the International Festival of Racing, highlighted by the Arlington Million and oversees the retail operations, guest relations and special events." Her interaction with businesses and the community is extensive and her accomplishments impressive.

The Platinum Home Mortgage Corp., which is a family-owned business, has been award-

ed the Small Business of the Year Award. Although the company is only 2½ years old, it has grown both physically and financially. It has brought on staff 88 employees and has opened offices in Chicago, IL, River Grove, IL, and Denver, CO. It is now the fourth largest government residential loan provider in my State. The Platinum Home Mortgage Corp. is truly representative of success as they continue to grow.

Kevin T. Kendrigan, the director of the Northwest Special Recreation Association [NSRA] has been recognized as the Community Leader of the Year. His resume offers an extensive list of memberships to associations and community groups. Even more impressive are his accomplishments at the NSRA, which now serves over 2,500 people monthly and conducts 250 programs for both children and adults.

The Community Consolidated School District 15 has been awarded the Exceptional Business/Educational Environment Award. District 15 has blended traditional educational classes with interaction between various business and community leaders to offer students a more worldly education. Through innovative new programs at the local level, sponsored by private industries, our education system will be more effective in turning out students who will have the skills and knowledge that companies need as they enter the next century.

One award, the Business Beautification Award, was shared this year between two impressive edifices. The first is Michaels Glass and Mirror, Inc., which offers a wide variety of glass work, including auto glass, commercial and residential glazing, store fronts, table tops, shower doors, and mirrors. The second is the Rolling Meadows Shopping Center, owned by Baird and Warner. Both businesses have undergone substantial renovations to attract new customers and support businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I commend all of the winners of the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce awards. But more importantly, I thank all of them for their contributions to the community in which they live. I and the residents of the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois are proud of them.

CONDEMNING THE KKK AND EVERYTHING FOR WHICH IT STANDS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Constitution establishes the fundamental rights we enjoy as Americans. It embodies what is good and right in America. The first amendment to our Constitution provides for the right to peacefully assemble, and it enshrines free speech as being a basic tenet upon which the democracy of our great Nation rests.

As history has taught us, the Constitution, which represents so much of what is good in our country, also protects those who promote evil. I am sad to say that the Ku Klux Klan [KKK], which embraces bigotry, hatred, and intolerance, will exercise its first amendment rights and rally in Portage, IN this Saturday, May 11. I join the overwhelming majority of Portage residents—and others in Northwest